practical to provide weighing machines in the mufassal. But, still, Sir, excessive load could easily be found, and it could be actually weighed, and then action could be taken.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Sir, is there any difference in weight between bullock-carts with rubber tyres and those with ordinary tyres?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. If it is bullock-cart with rubber tyres, double the load that is allowed normally could be permitted.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that apart from the excessive load in bullock-carts, there is very heavy overloading in carts drawn by men? He would himself have witnessed this on the roads of Madras City.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. That is a different matter and a different question.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, apart from the question of the activities of the S.P.C.A., will the Government consider the enforcement of the rules issued by them through the Police, especially in the case of heavily loaded bullock-carts, the panting bullocks that we see going on the First Line Beach dragging heavy loads to and from the Harbour?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. The matter is being looked into.

S.S.L.C. Public Examination

3-20 p.m. * 90 Q.—DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reasons for not conducting at present examinations in Tamil on the first day of the S.S.L.C. Public Examination;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that, as soon as Tamil was made the First Language in 1948, examinations in Tamil were held on the first day of the S.S.L.C. Public Examination; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to change the schedule for conducting examinations in the First Language on the first day of the Public Examination?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The regional language, including Tamil, was made the first language under the scheme of study of languages for the S.S.L.C. Examination in 1948. The examination in the first language was accordingly held on the first day of the examinations held in March 1948. But as the examination in the regional languages has to be conducted in various languages in addition to Tamil, certain practical difficulties were experienced in conducting the examinations on the first day of the examinations. Hence, this arrangement was dropped.

(*c*) No, Sir.

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DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : May I know what those practical difficulties are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The difficulties were that the examinations had to be conducted not only in Tamil but also in other languages. Therefore, it was not possible to co-ordinate them.

Poet Laureateship of the State

* 91 *Q.*—SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to revive the Poet Laureateship of the State;

(*b*) if so, the date on which it will be revived;

(*c*) whether there is any other scheme to encourage Tamil Poets and Scholars; and

(*d*) if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) & (*d*) There is no proposal as such to encourage Tamil Poets and Scholars. The Government have, however, instituted a scheme for the award of ten prizes for the best books on various subjects in Tamil each year at the rate of Rs. 1,000 each. The Government have also instituted a scheme for the award of ten prizes of Rs. 500 each for books in Tamil for children. Scholars in the language are also encouraged by being appointed as members of Committees like the one constituted for the prepartion of the glossary of Administrative Terms in Tamil, etc.

SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER : Sir, Poet Laureateship is a very laudable institution. While there may have been some justification for doing away with it in the past when there were 4 regional languages, now after the reorganization of the States on a linguistic basis when Tamil happens to be the official language of the State, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to reconsider the whole thing as it is the best way to encourage Tamil?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think that it is the best way of encouraging Tamil. It is a matter of opinion.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know why the Government have decided to give up this institution which was started, I think in 1948 or so, when Sri Madhava Menon was the Education Minister?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Because it was not found necessary.

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Are there no poets in Tamil Nad?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There are many poets and so, there is no point in choosing one as the Poet Laureate.